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INDIANA READY TO ASSIST KATRINA EVACUEES

Indianapolis – An estimated 1,100 evacuees from Hurricane Katrina are already in Indiana. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) urges all these individuals to register with the department to ensure they receive proper assistance.

"Indiana is happy to provide a home for victims of Katrina," said J. Eric Dietz, IDHS Executive Director. "These individuals have experienced a great deal in the last week. We want to do what we can to show true "Hoosier Hospitality" and aid them in their recovery process."

By registering with IDHS, the State of Indiana can better aid Katrina evacuees in meeting housing, healthcare, and educational needs. To register, individuals affected by Katrina in Indiana can call 866-679-4631 or visit www.indianadisasterhelp.org. All Katrina evacuees, whether in a shelter or residing with relatives in Indiana, should register to receive assistance.

"We also want to remind citizens and organizations not to purposely travel to the areas affected by Katrina to transport people to Indiana," said Phil Roberts, IDHS Division of Emergency Response Director. "Katrina evacuees are welcome in Indiana but disaster relief organizations are best equipped to deal with matters such as this."

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